

## **Spain: Briefing Paper on the situation of human rights defenders**

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Ahead of Spain's UPR, ISHR highlights the threats to civil society space and human rights defence in the country



(Geneva) - Spain is scheduled to be reviewed at the 21st session of the Universal Periodic Review in January 2015.

Since its first UPR of May 2010, the context in which human rights defenders operate in the Spain has become increasingly difficult. At a time of increased civic activism in Spanish streets, violent repression of public protest has been reported, whilst official clampdowns on freedom of peaceful assembly have been imposed and legislative restrictions proposed.

Key recommendations that should be made to Spain at the UPR in early 2015 include the guarantee of impartial and effective investigations of violations that have taken place during demonstrations. Recommendations should also underline the need to guarantee freedom of expression, of peaceful assembly and of association in any new legislative proposal.

This [Briefing Paper on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in Spain](#) (también disponible [en español](#)) is intended to assist States and other stakeholders to formulate questions and recommendations regarding the protection of human rights defenders during the UPR.

For further information about the Briefing Paper or for any assistance or advice in the formulation of recommendations, please contact ISHR's Eleanor Openshaw on [e.openshaw@ishr.ch](mailto:e.openshaw@ishr.ch).

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